

CHAPTER 6  
NUCLEAR POWER TRAINING

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## NUCLEAR POWER TRAINING

### 6.0 GENERAL INFORMATION.

Highly motivated and trained technicians are required to maintain and operate the Navy's nuclear powered submarines and surface ships and shore based training facilities. In order to meet those requirements, the Navy has established a nuclear power training program through which qualified volunteers may attain the necessary expertise. Entrance requirements and application procedures for this program are set forth in this chapter.

#### 6.01 NAVAL NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM (SURFACE/SUBMARINE).

This program consists of approximately 12 months of academic training followed by approximately 6 months of operational and maintenance training at a land-based reactor prototype site. Applicants volunteering for this program should be advised that most of the training will be in a new technical field and is not limited to the professional aspects of any particular rating. The training is divided into the following two major phases:

- Nuclear Field Class "A" Schools. These courses, taught at NTC, Orlando, Florida, consist of technical knowledge basic to each rate. The length varies depending on the specific class "A" school.
- Basic Nuclear Power Course. This course is 24 weeks long and is conducted at the Naval Nuclear Power School located at NTC Orlando FL. Students receive a theoretical background in nuclear propulsion technology and other subjects required for the operational training phase which follows.
- Nuclear Propulsion Plant Operator Course. This 26-week operational training course is conducted at one of the nuclear propulsion reactor prototype plants (Nuclear Power Training Unit) located at either Idaho Falls, ID; Ballston Spa, NY; Windsor, CT or Charleston, SC. At the Nuclear Power Training Unit, students gain realistic practical experience by operating the prototype propulsion plant as a member of a watch section, while working with experienced nuclear propulsion plant operators and supervisors.

6.011 QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE NAVAL NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM. The Nuclear Propulsion Program Schools are academically difficult and a sound understanding of mathematics, physics and chemistry is necessary for successful completion. Strong motivation, interest in the program and willingness to work diligently in the academic and operational training phases are important prerequisites for the program. While the highest standards of personal conduct and reliability are required of all members of the naval service, it is especially important that personnel assigned to duty involving the operation, maintenance, and supervision of naval nuclear propulsion plants are of unquestioned reliability. Accordingly, conscientious efforts are necessary to examine and evaluate each individual applicant's character, background and potential for meeting program requirements.

6.0111 Commanding Officer's Responsibility in Determining Individual's Qualifications. Prior to recommending individuals for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, Commanding Officers will evaluate nominees in accordance with the requirements listed below. An interview shall be held with the member by an officer utilizing the sample interview form shown in Figure 6A. Candidates shall:

- Be of pay grade E2 through E6 on active duty in the Occupational Areas of Electronic and Mechanical/Electrical Equipment Repair (DG-9710 and DG-9760). Personnel selected for the program will be placed in one of three nuclear operator categories (Mechanical, Electrical or Reactor Operator) at the beginning of basic Nuclear Power School based on experience and the needs of the program. Personnel will be converted to the source rating appropriate to their operator training (MM, EM or ET) upon successful completion of the Nuclear Field "A" School course.
- Be motivated for the program and aware of the demanding academic effort required to complete the training program. (e.g.; general study and class time usually totals at least 12 hours per day).
- Have a minimum combined VE plus AR score of 113.
- Be a high school diploma graduate.
- Have completed at least 1 year of high school level algebra with no less than a "C" (70 - 79% on a 100% base).
- Should have completed high school level or higher instruction in chemistry, physics or other sciences.
- Have not reached 25th birthday on class convening date at Nuclear Power School.
- Be physically qualified:
  - In accordance with MANMED Article 15-32 and the Radiation Health Protection Manual (NAVMED P5055) for personnel applying for the Nuclear Submarine Program, or
  - In accordance with MANMED Article 15-33 and the Radiation Health Protection Manual (NAVMED P5055) for personnel applying for the Nuclear Surface Ship Program.
- Have demonstrated good academic performance at Class "A" and other service schools (evidenced by a standing within the upper half of the class). Personnel who did not stand in the upper half of the above schools will be considered on a case basis if other evidence of academic achievement clearly indicates potential to successfully complete nuclear propulsion training.

- Be a U. S. Citizen.
- Not have completed more than 4 years active service on class convening date for Nuclear Power School. Waivers will be considered on a case basis for particularly outstanding candidates.
- Have a clear record for at least 1 year insofar as the Commanding Officer can determine by inspection of current service record, and not more than one minor offense during the past 2 years. (A minor offense is considered as one defined in the Manual of Courts-Martial, U. S. 1969 [Revised edition, Chapter 128.b.]) Individuals convicted of a serious offense will not be accepted. (A serious offense is considered to be one that may jeopardize eligibility for security clearance such as theft, or an offense that suggests unreliability.) Evidence of drug abuse is disqualifying, however a waiver may be granted for pre-service experimental use of marijuana. This waiver policy applies only to pre-service use of marijuana which is of a clearly experimental nature and was acknowledged by the individual during recruitment.
- Must have overall performance marks of 3.4 or better, with no individual performance trait marks below 3.0 for 2 years prior to entry into Nuclear Power School, except for cases in which one minor offense has resulted in an evaluation trait mark below 3.4. Selection for nuclear propulsion training will depend on the nature of the minor offense and an evaluation of the individual's overall performance record.
- Cases may arise which, in the judgment of the Commanding Officer, do not clearly fall within the disciplinary guidelines provided above. In such cases, recommendations containing supporting information should be submitted to COMNAVPERSCOM (NPC-403F) for decision.

6.0112 Security Investigation and Clearance Required for Nuclear Propulsion Program. A SECRET clearance is required for all students prior to the commencement of training in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. The requirements for granting a SECRET clearance are contained in OPNAVINST 5510.1 series, the Department of the Navy Supplement to DOD Information Security Program Regulation.

- Prior to completion of the Commanding Officer's endorsement on the member's request for entry into the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, it must be determined if the appropriate security documents are available in the service record. If they are not, a National Agency Check Request must be submitted simultaneously with the submission of member's Enlisted Personnel Action Request (NAVPERS 1306/7). Member can not be ordered to Nuclear Power School until a satisfactory National Agency check is completed and documented in his service record.

6.012 SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO NUCLEAR PROPULSION TRAINING. Requests for assignment to nuclear propulsion training and ultimate assignment to surface ship or submarine duty from those personnel who meet the qualifications prescribed in this chapter shall be submitted to COMNAVPERSCOM (NPC-403F) utilizing the Enlisted Personnel Action Request (NAVPERS 1306/7).

Personnel may indicate that they are volunteers for submarine duty; however, ultimate assignment to submarine duty cannot be guaranteed unless the applicant is already qualified in submarines (SS designator).

6.0121 Service Record Entry. The following entry must be made on an Administrative Remarks Page (NAVPERS 1070/613) in the member's service record prior to submitting a request for assignment to the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program:

Date: "I understand the requirements that I must fulfill if selected for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program in accordance with the provisions of NAVMILPERSCOMINST 1306.1, ENLTRANSMAN - Chapter 6 and MILPERSMAN 1160-040 and 1160-080."

Member's Signature

Witnessed: J. ELLIS

LCDR, USN, Personnel Officer

6.0122 Forwarding Endorsement on Request for Assignment to Nuclear Propulsion Training. The following information must be included in the forwarding endorsement:

- Member has/has not been selected for officer status.
- Member has/has not been previously selected for Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. (See Article 6.0123 below).
- Statement that applicant has been determined to be physically qualified and that additional physical examination records (Standard Forms 88 and 93) have been completed and are submitted as enclosure (1).
- Copy of High School transcripts, and College transcripts (if applicable).
- Copy of Navy Occupational Training and Awards History (page 4) NAVPERS 1070/604.
- Copy of performance evaluations covering the last two years.
- Justification for waiver of any program eligibility requirements.
- Commanding Officer's statement as to the applicant's potential to successfully complete Nuclear Propulsion Training.

6.0123 Additional Requirements for Personnel Previously Assigned to Nuclear Propulsion Training and Disenrolled for Alcohol Dependency. Requests for reassignment to nuclear propulsion training for personnel who were disenrolled for alcohol dependency prior to completion of training may be considered after successful rehabilitation and a 180 day observation period, at least 90 days

of which must be at the member's endorsing command. During this period the member must demonstrate exemplary performance and freedom from alcohol abuse. The following additional information must be included with the request:

- Member's statement that he has been made aware of the physical and psychological effects of alcohol abuse, rejects any further abuse, and supports the Navy and Nuclear Power Program drug and alcohol policy.
- A copy of the latest enlisted performance evaluation or special evaluation documenting the member's performance and attitude toward further alcohol abuse.
- A statement of the type of treatment received by member.

6.013 REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET PRIOR TO TRANSFER. The individual's command shall ensure that the requirements listed below are met prior to transfer.

6.0131 Obligated Service Requirements. Personnel selected for assignment to nuclear propulsion training must have a minimum of 48 months active obligated service at time of reporting to Nuclear Power School. In addition, members who will have completed less than 2 years active service on reporting to Nuclear Power School must extend or reenlist to ensure a minimum aggregate active service of 6 years.

- Personnel may reenlist or extend their enlistments, if qualified in all other respects, in order to obtain the required active obligated service. USNR must convert to USN. Instructions concerning reenlistment and voluntary extensions of enlistment are contained in MILPERSMAN 1160-030 and 1160-040. Note: Personnel extending to meet obligated service requirements and selected for Nuclear Surface Ship assignment will have the opportunity to reenlist at the completion of prototype training dropping the inoperative extensions executed to obtain sufficient obligated service for nuclear surface operators to compute SRB. If an extension would become operative prior to completion of nuclear propulsion training then two extensions should be utilized. One extension to allow completion of the training and a second extension to complete the 48 month obligated service requirement.
- When an Agreement to Extend Enlistment (NAVPERS 1070/621) or an Agreement to Recall or Extend Active Duty (NAVPERS 1070/622) is executed to attain active obligated service required, the following entry shall be made as the NARRATIVE REASON for extension:  
  
"Training - Nuclear Field Program (NAVMILPERSCOMINST 1306.1 and ENLTRANSMAN Chapter 6) I understand that this extension becomes binding upon execution and thereafter may not be cancelled except as set forth in MILPERSMAN 1160-040 and 1160-080."
- If a member does not desire to obligate himself as required, retain member on board and submit message notification to COMNAVPERSCOM (NPC-403F), who will then issue cancellation orders.

6.014 PREPARATION FOR NUCLEAR POWER SCHOOL. Personnel interested in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program should complete a refresher course in basic mathematics such as Mathematics, Part 1 (NAVEDTRA 10448-3). Additional review in basic physics and chemistry should also be accomplished. Completion of this study, while not mandatory, will assist in the successful completion of Nuclear Propulsion Training.

6.015 ASSIGNMENT TO NUCLEAR FIELD "A" SCHOOL. Personnel who are selected for Nuclear Propulsion Training will be assigned to Nuclear Field "A" School for up to 28 weeks of training. Personnel whose present rating is EM or ET will be required to successfully complete abbreviated courses covering topics essential to support the Naval Nuclear Power School Curriculum. MM3 and personnel in other ratings will be required to successfully complete the entire "A" school curriculum prior to commencing Nuclear Power School.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW FORM

The following is a sample of the interview form that is to be reproduced locally.

INTERVIEW FORM

Name of Member Interviewed:

Date

Rate

SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

NEC

(For Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program).

1. Has member read NAVMILPERSCOMINST 1306.1 and Chapter 6 of the Enlisted Transfer Manual (ENLTRANSMAN)? ( ) YES ( ) NO

2. Does the member fully understand the nature of training which must be completed in order to qualify for duty in the Naval Nuclear Program?  
( ) YES ( ) NO

3. Is the member willing to study academic and technical subjects not normally required in his particular rating? ( ) YES ( ) NO

4. Is the member willing to spend a year or more in training?  
( ) YES ( ) NO

5. Has the member taken any study courses within the last 2 years to prepare for nuclear training? ( ) YES (Specify \_\_\_\_\_) ( ) NO

6. Does the member have any personal problems (debt, family, etc.) which may interfere with ability to devote extra hours to academic studies?  
( ) YES (Specify \_\_\_\_\_) ( ) NO

7. Does the member's spouse understand the academic demands of the nuclear training program and support the member's interest?  
( ) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not applicable.

8. Is the member sufficiently motivated to succeed in this difficult training program? ( ) YES ( ) NO

9. What are the main reasons why the member desires to participate in the program?

FIGURE 6A-1



10. Give any reasons which particularly qualify or may disqualify the member for this program?

11. List service schools attended and member's class standings.

Signature of Interviewing Officer  
Title of Interviewing Officer

FIGURE 6A-2